

Amendments to the specification:

On page 13, after line 17, insert the following paragraphs:

The present invention may also include the use of a universal gateway module suitable for interfacing one of many different types of peripheral devices, such as telephones or PDA's, to a security system as described in United States patent application serial number 10/364,909 filed on 12/18/2002 and which relies on co-pending U.S. provisional application serial number 60/434/854. As described in that application there is an increasing demand for interfacing existing security systems to external peripherals and devices with functions that are not traditionally based on security system control. For example, it is desired to be able to use a telephone (corded or cordless) for various security system functions, including but not limited to entering system commands (such as arm or disarm) , viewing or hearing system status, etc. Present security system control panels allow direct interfacing to some external peripherals. Most of those external peripherals communicate with the security system control panel via a propriety hardware/software communication channel specific to the design of the security system. Furthermore, each of those communication channels is associated with appropriate type of devices that can be interfaced to the control panel. The non-standard nature of the hardware/software communication channels of the control panel, along with the need to change the panel's software when introducing a new peripheral, ends up limiting the number and the choices of new external peripherals/devices that could be interfaced to existing security systems.

In order to overcome the problems of the prior art, a universal gateway module is provided, which will interface one or more of various devices not traditionally used in security system control to an existing security system. The gateway module of the present invention will allow security system control panel s to interface to a wide range of new external peripheral devices that do not support the security system's non-standard communication channels. This will be

achieved by the gateway's simpler and more standardized communication channel. The new gateway module will interface between the new external devices and the security system control panel in a way that it will be completely transparent to the security system control panel's hardware and software. In most cases, hardware or software changes will not be required to be made on the control panel in order to be able to interface to a variety of new external devices. There are many benefits for such a universal gateway module. With some engineering design effort on the new potential peripheral devices, and in most cases with no engineering design effort on existing security control panels, new, existing and future developed products (manufactured by many different companies) could be easily interfaced to existing control panels. The gateway will have a sub-assembly and an enclosure.

The sub-assembly will consist of a microprocessor and the appropriate interface circuitry (drivers, connectors, power supply, etc.) which are mounted on a printed circuit board. The microprocessor (to include a built in memory to store the appropriate program and variables) will be able to transfer/control the appropriate data/signals between the control panel and an external device, accordingly. On its "front end", the gateway module will communicate with the existing communication channel of the control panel. On its "back end" the gateway module will communicate in simple and standard methods with the new external peripheral/device. The gateway could communicate with the new external device via standard "transmit"/"receive" signal/protocol using a simple/standard hardware driver circuitry. The gateway could provide additional signals to the new external device in order to accommodate more specific needs, depending on the requirement dictated by the new external device. For example, such additional signals could be telco phone lines, trigger outputs etc.

Different additional options could be provided in addition to the basic functions described above. For example, the gateway can provide power to the new peripheral/device including during AC loss (battery back-up)

In particular, the present invention is a gateway module for interfacing a peripheral device to a security system, the gateway module including a security system interface means for interfacing the gateway module with a security system control panel via a security system bus and/or other appropriate dedicated signal lines, and a peripheral device interface means for interfacing the gateway module with a peripheral device. The gateway module also has processing means for controlling operation of the gateway module. The processing means is adapted to transceive security system data to and from the security system interface means, wherein the security system data is configured in a security system protocol suitable for communication with a security system control panel, and to transceive peripheral device data to and from the peripheral device interface means, wherein the peripheral device data configured in a peripheral device protocol suitable for communication with a peripheral device. The processing means is also adapted to translate security system data received from the security interface means to peripheral device data suitable for transmission to the peripheral device interface means, and also translate peripheral device data received from the peripheral device interface means to security system data suitable for transmission to the security system device interface means.

The peripheral device may be, for example, a telephone set or a handheld computing device. The peripheral device may communicate with the gateway module via a tethered connection such as a UART, USB or Ethernet LAN connection, or communications may be wireless, for example via the IEEE 802.11 standard or the BLUETOOTH standard.